BAKEMONOGATARI

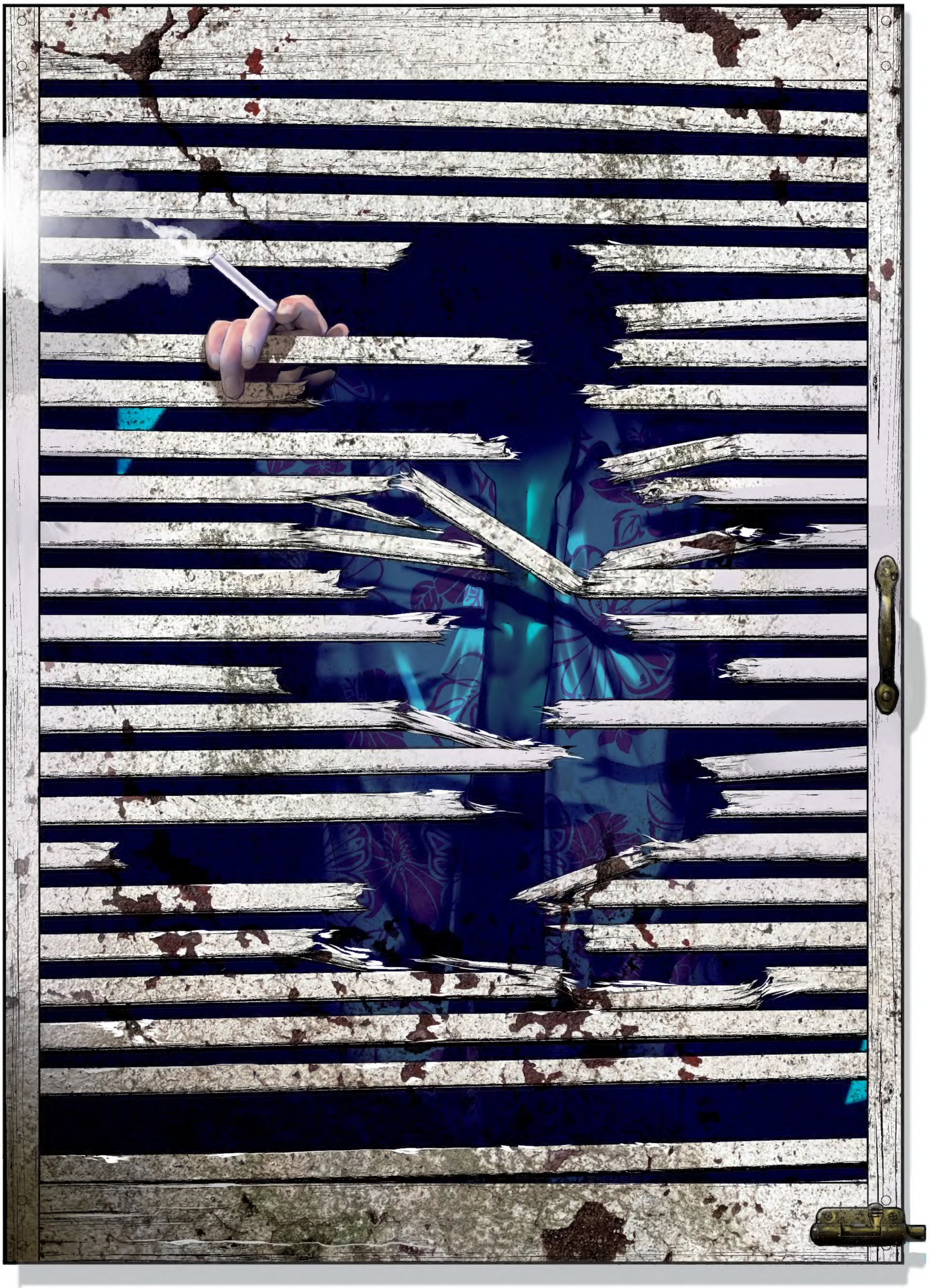
21

OH!GREAT

Original Story:

NISIOISIN

Original Character
Design: VOFAN



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ORIGINAL STORY:

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MAIN CHARACTERS

Tsubasa Hanekawa

Koyomi's classmate who has feelings for him and has been bewitched by a cat. She fights her past self in order to move forward.

The Tyrannical Tiger

An aberration born from Hanekawa who's trying to burn everything to ash with its raging flames of jealousy.

Black Hanekawa

The aberration known as an Afflicting Cat, or *sawarineko*, which has manifested in Hanekawa but is also Hanekawa herself. She uses this power to fight the Tyrannical Tiger.

Koyomi Araragi

A boy and a "mockery of a vampire." He's unable to stop himself from offering a helping hand when faced with someone who is suffering.

Hitagi Senjogahara

Koyomi's lover who once encountered a crab before being saved by him. She now waits for him, certain that he'll return.

THE STORY SO FAR

Koyomi defeats Seishiro Shishirui, managing to resolve the situation involving Shinobu. Meanwhile, Hanekawa's battle has yet to conclude. Though she managed to find the path she must take with her feelings in tow, the emotions she had been suppressing all this time have swelled into the almighty Tyrannical Tiger, which continues to force her to her knees no matter how hard she tries to confront it. Will Hanekawa be able to see what lies beyond this struggle...?

BOOK DESIGN VEIA

Chapter 5

Tsubasa Cat

BA
GA
KE
TA
MO
RI
NO

SPLOOSH

TWITCH

TWITCH

KHAGH!

NGH!

GH—

AH!

SZZZT

BLURP

BLURP

SZZ

SZZ

FZZZZ

But surely you must understand quite well.

An aberration that sides with humans, then. A rare sight—you are not.

The one you call your master. *That woman* —

Just how white she is.

Innocent and unblemished. White— transparently so.

That beauty of hers. You must know that I was the one supporting it all.

FNNGH —

HAAH!

HUFF —

WHEEZ —

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

TWITCH

TWITCH

NGH!

NNGH ...

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

MMH!

Miss Senjo-gahara! Ruuun !!!

Be-beep ...

Honnk

HAAH !

Because Miss Senjogahara... has already *stepped away* from aberrations...

She... can't see me!!

HAAH !

GNNH !

TWINGE

MRAAAAAGHH

FLAIL

FLAIL

KHOFF!

AHH!

AH!

I...

I am *that woman's* darkness—a darkness so unsettling it would make you want to turn away.

She forced all of her negative emotions upon me.

It is why *she* continues to be so beautifully white.

AHH!

AHH ...

AHH ...!

By the time I realized it— I was crying.

I couldn't believe it... Crying for the sake of another?

It may have been yet another first for me.

...spilling out from within me!

I felt so pathetic— so pained. Every conceivable emotion surged forth...

Even if I risked my life— I couldn't save a single one of my precious friends.

TOU-

PTT

No answer

...

No answer

Koyomi Araragi

Contacts

Speaker

Mute

Keypad

So it involves Miss Hanekawa ...

I see.

No wonder he's late...

A week earlier

It was when she stayed over—

that's when it happened. It seems obvious when I think about what "she" and I spoke about.

...Ngh...

RUSTLE

Oh my.

You're nyot surpurrised?

Nyow you're a lady with nerves of steel...

Oh, I am...

But you're Miss Hanekawa, aren't you?

You could say that, or you could say I'm nyot.

Of course— I think those are the kinds of thoughts any human would have.

I'm more of a *thing*— something like a congealed mass of the trauma she's severed and her stress and stuff.

I'm a part of my myaster's darkness.

... that's when I'll vanish.

Once my myaster grows and starts learning how to accept all kinds of things...

RUB

RUB

RUB

But we're transitional aberrations, mew see.

...

RUBBING UP AGAINST TATAMI MATS SURE FEELS GOOD. IT'S A REAL NICE FORM OF STRESS RELIEF...

That's the smell of mites who've died in the sun.

You didn't know?

ROLL ゴロ ROLL ゴロ MEOW! ♡

AND THE SMELL OF SUNBAKED TATAMI IS THE BEST!

When you say "we"—does that mean that others, well, "exist"?

...Are you listening?

Shore do wish I never had to learn that...

Who are you, even?

Which is it?

...I did.

You know... I was curious about it, too.

I was wondering if that was... *real.*

When I talk to her... I sometimes get this feeling.

That *even* her actual emotions— are borrowed straight from some book or something.

Obedient

Incorruptible

Erudite with good memory

7754

Exemplary behavior

Saintly

7754670376943

The way she's like—a precision instrument.

There are moments when our conversations almost feel like some sort of pre-determined program.

It's why I go out of my way to say ridiculous things and throw off her rhythm.

That perfection.

Nyow I see how you can *stand* being friends with my myaster.

...

She's changed a bit lately...

But I just want to be better friends with her...

It was once they started talking. That's when my myaster changed.

It was Araragi.

It was him.

I'm like you... I like my myaster nyow.

It's why I'm here nyow... but I think it's a good change for my myaster.

She stopped having to borrow.

It wasn't like *before*— those things you'd call "real emotions" are coming from her nyow.

But what if all of those feelings came out of her the way you did? What would happen then?

Ehh?

Who nyohs.

Now, this is just a "what if" thing —

okay?

Nyo number of worlds...

...might be enough.

If a single point of stress turns into something like you, then...

JIGGLE

That's not what I mean.

I'm talking about Miss Hanekawa. What...would happen to her?

If it's ever too much for her.

...and turn back into a machine. That's all.

Thank you for the meal.

It'll be like before—she'll *throw it all away...*

I still haven't shaken your hand to formally say hello.

?!

FSST

...while you're here with me, now, can we?

We can't leave it at that...

TWITCH

TAP

Ugh!

...

My energy gets drained, right?

I know.

Haven't you heard? Touch me and...

...

Take good care of Miss Hanekawa, won't you?

Miss Hanekawa did seem tired. I hope I helped in some small way.

For once, I think I'll be able to get a good night's sleep, thanks to you.

...Nyor-mally, you'd have passed out from that...

It enters. Right into me.

I feel some-thing...

... spreading through-out.

And so.

Tyrannical Tiger.

The reason for your defeat.

I imagine it's because— you were too strong.

They come to life, one after the next.

Also...

Friend-ship. Hope.

Sorrow. Rage.

Struggle.

Despair.

ZWOOM

...bravery—
and things like
that, I guess?

We can shake paws and say hello later.

New

...aberrations and the like.

PTT

It's myself I've been killing all this time.

I was abused most of all by myself.

Yes, that's right.

BOOM

I stood alone, living a beautiful life.

I hated none. I resented none. I was kind to all and loved all.

I'd cast them out.

I'd shut away my feelings.

And now, I've made my choice to put an end to all of that.

BOOM

No!

GRIND

GRIND

GRIND

I...!

...I.

As you live, you cut your emotions free, birthing one monster after the next.

This is what it means for you to show your true colors.

I reject them.

The tiger's tyrannical words.

I reject my past self.

The way I've lived for 17 years.

Miss Senjo-gahara taught me some-thing.

She allowed me to realize something.

It's not bland and flavorless—is it?

That's not what my life is.

Don't let it near her!!!

Maybe I'll become dumber.

Maybe I won't be able to laugh anymore.

Maybe I'll start getting frustrated and annoyed.

Maybe I'll no longer be able to be kind— maybe I'll be disliked.

Combine and maximize each of your abilities!

You have to attack as one!

Fall in!!!

Huh.

You have some good ideas sometimes, don't you.

Understood, my sister.

Got it!

H-Hey... I was gonna say that, too.

PTT PTT PTT PTT

ZSSHH

One regret I can't let go of.

...there is one thing.

Ahh.

But...

I'm sure that Araragi— will be disappointed.

...Ahh.

It's the one thing I truly can't stand.

I don't want to make him feel sad.

It's this pure whiteness of mine and nothing else.

My worth.

What Miss Senjogahara might call my "flavor."

To him.

...even so, it's fine.

But...

SNAP

It's.

Fine.

But not anymore.

Miss Haneka Are y listeni

I've averted my eyes from what I couldn't stand.

...kawa.

That was Miss Hoshina. She said I should stay home for a while if I have the flu.

I guess this is what they call being hoisted by your own petard.

About my dad ...

Oh. So...

My dad's going to be so mad ...

I got to witness the rare sight of a frightened Miss Senjo-gahara.

Our home is tight on space, as you can clearly see... I couldn't possibly have you and him sleeping under the same roof.

It sounds like he finished his work faster than expected, so he's coming back today.

So cute ...

Though, to be honest, I'd like you to continue staying here under my control indefinitely.

...

This is starting to sound criminal...

Araragi told me...

I understand you'll be traveling overseas after graduation instead of heading to university?

Well, Miss Hane-kawa—

Ahh ...

Picturing that porcelain-white skin of yours getting sunburned as you walk through the tropics is enough to fill me with despair.

You're worried about my skin?

To be more serious here, not every country in the world is as safe as Japan. It'll be too late if something terrible happens, okay?

You should act under the assumption that every boy in the world is after that skin of yours.

I'm against you going.

And I'm sure that Araragi wants to stop you, too.

He just can't say anything because it's you, Miss Hanekawa.

Just changing the location and shape of those braids changes everything, doesn't it?

See? What do you think? Cute, right?

So ...

Huh ...!

I'm certain.

You think so?

...I don't know if I can do this on my own.

But... Thank you.

What an honest girl.

...Maybe once a week.

It's a real pain.

Oh, well, not every day. Once every three days...

Well, I'd be happy to do it for you any-time.

You ought to rely on others more, Miss Hanekawa.

No matter who it is, having someone rely on you—feels good, doesn't it?

DING DONG

It's Dad.

Oh.

PA-KRAK

BWOOF

FSSHT

I am relying on others.

Now I am.

HAH!

I've died so many times that my memeowries are getting cloudy...

I want to say...that we talked about something important by the front door after that...

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

KRASH

ISGKKRL

I have selves that I should be relying on.

Right now.

GRRRRRRKT

GRRKT

My cowardly self will keep my body safe.

My fretful self will teach me what I lack.

My angry self will set me free.

My frightened self will let me understand the importance of bravery.

My emboldened self will make me strong.

My hopeless self will show me the existence of hope.

Because that's the kind of person he is.
A kind person.

Oh. You know...

This might actually make Araragi happy.

BOOM

Ahh.

I am a tiger. I have a name:

The Tyrannical Tiger.

FZZT

FZZSST

KRAKL

sobbing and weeping in a dark, damp place.

I have an idea of where I was born—

It seems to have been a hot summer.

MOM

Drop of Life

It was the one and only thing this so-called mom of hers ever did for that woman.

If not for this "water," that woman—

she should have died here, at this moment.

七夕ちゃん SPLAP

七夕ちゃん SPLAP

...changed again and again and again and again.

The worthless humans whose lone role was to feed her...

She was abused and mistreated by every single parent she had.

Not for a moment was she ever loved.

...did not cry.

But that woman...

...it was *my* eyes that filled with water.

Instead ...

The water flowed and flowed.

It flowed for 17 straight years.

...and make it all water under the bridge.

So she could smile— so she could forget...

But...

...in that fateful moment ...

KREAK

THROB

...that she had *those kinds of feelings.*

It was the first time she learned...

...that woman seemed perplexed.

And in that moment, she finally became aware.

Everything she thought to be an emotion before then had been borrowed from elsewhere.

No.

...saw me.

For the first time, that woman ...

...I made the decision.

So this is when...

For 17 years— I had watched her and no one else.

Oh?

My good-ness.

If it isn't Miss Hanekawa. It's been some time.

Yeah. I guess it's been 14 days and 12 hours, Mayoi.

?

Is that so.

This ghost's tongue never slips in front of *this woman.*

Hm?

Yes, why?

Miss Hanekawa, is that how you greet *everyone?*

Are you sure you aren't using those glasses to expose every inch of my body in the raw—sorry.

I mean, to expose every bit of raw data on my actions?

—Like that.

I've never seen her joke around with that woman like this.

Ah.

You mean my back-pack.

What about that charming accessory of yours?

Hm?

Hold on, Mayoi...

It seems she decided not to pursue the matter any further...

...for if she did, the girl might then say she was assaulted.

Hauled ...

I forgot it at Mister Araragi's home when I was forcibly hauled there.

In fact, I was searching for Mister Araragi precisely so that he would return it to me...but it seems nobody was at his place.

While the girl had already made the case sound incriminating enough...

...it felt like she was about to shine a light on some regrettable facts but decided to let it go.

Flee ...

Perhaps some sort of incriminating case came up after I managed to flee from Mister Araragi's home.

But well, it does seem as though he's always busy going from one place to the next.

Oh, no. Nothing compared to you, Miss Hanekawa.

Sounds like you're going through a lot, too, Mayoi.

...

Miss Hanekawa.

You're still lost, huh?

Because the fact that you can see an aberration like myself—says a lot about *your situation.*

I do hope you find your way home soon.

Maybe I should...

...head home.

If you have a place to return to...

...then that's where—

you go.

Well, I'll let Araragi know if I see him at school.

That would be appreciated.

If you don't have any place to return to...

...then there's nowhere for you—to go.

Noth-ing...

...can begin.

What...

...are you?

That doesn't matter.

There's ...

...no need for you to know.

You can remain the way you are now.

It's that pure whiteness of yours...

...that I pride myself on.

GLARE

Are you proud of yourself for cutting my *hair*?

?!

KRAK

...I decided.

That's when...

GWOOSH

Don't ...

...go any-where.

SBLAKK

Grrbgh ?!

I...I!

You... learned of me! And that's why...

Y... You...

GRAAAH!

BOOOM

GRAAR!

GRR—

It worked !!!

...

Every-
thing
that
caused
you to
cry...

...I would
burn it
to the
ground.

I...

I will only
continue to cry
in your place.

I...

It was
the first
time in
my life
I cried—
out of
happiness.

In that
moment—

when
you saw
me for
the very
first
time.

化け猫
bake

TSUBASAcat

21

mono

語
gatari

焙 bake

化 mono

TSUBASAcat

21

gatari 昴

Ah

Ahh

Ahh

Ah

It should all just disappear.

Ah

Grr

Gaah

Ahh!

GRRR...

BOOM

I will burn it.

It should sink into sadness.

It should grieve.

It should suffer.

I...

...will cry.

Hyagh!

Gyagh!

No! How? That attack...

...contained everything I had in me.

ROARRRRRRR

Burn! Melt! Smelt?

Burn!

I must burn it.

Thun-der Tiger.

Max-imum out-put.

... GR-RNH!

...

...I knew it.

There's... only one way to stop it.

BWOOM

GRAAH!!

Fire!!

We can only stop its mewvements fur a few seconds!

I know, Sister. You don't have to tell me.

?!!

BZZT

KRAKL

KRAKL

KRAKL

THROB

KRAKL

KRAKL

BWOOOSH

I knew it. This Tyrannical Tiger...

KLINK

...the tyranny of her past— is strong.

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

ZWOOM

...

...CRUSH-ER!!

HEALTH METER...

FSSSHH

TAKE IT OUT TO SEA!

...has crushed me for all this time.

Just as it...

...and I'm still no match for it.

Just as it ruled 17 years of my life...

...I can put all of my "self" on the line...

I just learned that even aberrations die if they can't breathe.

E-Even an aberration...

...can die if it can't breathe.

I dunno what your weakness is, but still!

St ...

Stop this!

You can sink me to the bottom of the sea—but you, too, will die, you know!

Just as you were finally born! And you will die so soon?!

BUT IT MEANS THAT YOU'LL ...

...DIE, TOO, RIGHT ?!!!

...!

...such an awful big sister.

I'm sorry to be...

Thank you for saving me...

...all this time.

Oh.

Coming!

DING DONG

Why am I remembering... that moment ?

Ah...

Why is it?

I'm Hitagi's father.

Hello there.

—That's right. *This* is the correct memory.

It's what hap-pened—back then.

Whoa ...

I felt so envious.

I'll *be on* my way.

It made sense now. He was that kind of father.

Miss Senjo-gahara's self-identifi-cation as a daddy's girl—

I see... I see.

But the way you just said "I'll be on my way" as you left my home—

please, don't take that for granted.

I'm in no place to act high and mighty myself, but I think that's why I'm qualified to say this.

Miss Hane-kawa.

I don't mean to pry into your family situation.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying you're a nuisance.

I'm very grateful for what you're doing for Hitagi.

I don't know how many years it's been since Hitagi last brought one of her friends over.

A family isn't something you need to have.

But it should be a happy one if it exists.

That's what I think ...

...as a father.

...just looking away doesn't count as running.

It's okay for people to go ahead and run from bad things.

But...

Whenever you need help, just ask for it. Whether that's from a public agency...

...or you could even ask Hitagi—she can be surprisingly reliable.

...Okay.

WHOA!

That's exactly right.

What are you talking about, Dad?

She's my friend.

Come on, I told you to wait at home.

It's only natural for her to rely on me—but...

You should rely on Araragi more.

I think having you rely on him— will only make him happy.

MRAAW

MRAAW

MRAAW

MRAAW

SPLOOSH

I said that to Araragi before, but...

...if I wasn't ready to die for them—

I wouldn't call someone a friend...

Why do this? It's sense-less.

It's point-less.

It's reck-less.

...those were just...

...words.

...came into exis-tence...

Just as you finally ...

You're right. Just as I was finally...

...able to learn.

At last... I learned.

I never even tried to learn what it means— that's all.

Just like I did with that mobile.

I looked away from what it means to be alive.

...Araragi.

Save me...

All of it.

It was senseless. It was reckless. It was pointless.

No, it wasn't ...

... Hane-kawa.

...ing things?

Am I hear...

...!

I wouldn't have made it in time.

If you hadn't risked your life to do all of this,

It might've been reckless.

But...

It might've been senseless.

...it wasn't pointless.

BWOOF

HEFF
HEFF
HEFF
BAKEMONO GATARI 21

GLUP

BOOM

Heh.

KLINK

Ahh-
hhhhh!

BLUBLUBLUB...

Ah!
...Ah.

Ahh!

GWOOM

P

Araragi!

Araragi!

Araragi!

Araragi!

Umm... Black Hanekawa, was it?

Your ears look different now.

And, uh...

...So hot !!

...Ngh!

GULP

THROBBB

IWAKURA FLOWERS ART FLOWERS

LOANS WORLD

SOY MILK

They're all me.

Y...

Yeah.

There's a lot more of you now.

...with my scent, too.

Just when I'd marked him...

This shirt... It's back on me again.

I don't know if there's any need for it now.

It was supposed to be...a memento, right?

3F MAHJONG

LIQUOR

CLOSING SALE

USED ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

You'd better hurry up.

That aberration... It doesn't have much longer.

Hanekawa.

It's not like you wanted to exorcise it, right?

What a complicated feeling... I'm happy that Araragi has grown, but...

...did Shinobu— tell him?

TWITCH Lun

TWITCH tin

Haan

Aneez

Haah

Haan

Eyes like—

he sees through it all.

How conceit-ed.

HUNH!

Huh.

I think it's only been fifteen minutes since we last parted ways...

...but now you're like Mister Oshino.

That's supposed to be a compliment, you know.

Araragi.

So are you ...

...really sure?

He's saying this... understanding everything, right?

Haan

Aneez

Haah

Haan

Haah

Haan

If I absorb the Tyrannical Tiger with my energy drain...

...that pure-white version of me will disappear.

Are you okay ...

...with me not being me anymore ?

Will that be all right ?

...

Like I said.

What kind of a stupid question is that, Hanekawa?

You just said it yourself.

No matter what happens, it's all you.

If people resent you, I'll stick up for you.

If you get stupid—

Well...

...I'll even help you study.

If you become a bad person, I'll hate you.

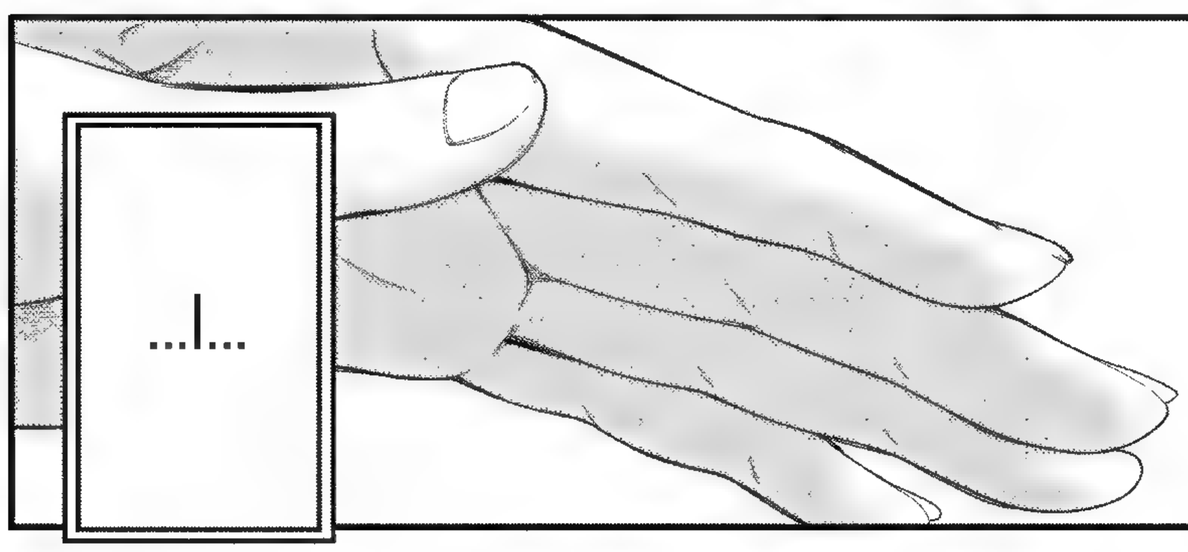
If you do bad things, I'll get angry at you.

Don't worry.

I'm not going to make any special exception for you.

You might change, but you're still you.

If you cry,
I'll comfort you.



When I heard those words...

...and softly patted its head.

I went to the Tyrannical Tiger...

...So it was this bad.

The flames I'd looked away from for all this time.

It came flowing into me— everything I'd stored for 17 years.

Ngh!

...Mmh!

This is how much...

...I hurt.

Gnnf.

...

...was in so much pain.

Gnnh!

I...

Ghh!

CRUMBLE

FSSHHH

A-A-HMF

CHOMP

CHOMP

CHOMP

CHOMP

It's okay now.

I don't need—

to be pure and white anymore.

Unn-
nhh
...
Ahhhh
...
...

Unh!

Unn
Nnh

Hyaah—

Waaah!

Wua-
aaa-
aah!

Hic!

Hic!

Ah!

Hey.

Araragi
?

...love you, Ara-ragi.

I...

But it was still so far from enough.

With all of "me" behind it.

Properly—in my own words.

Finally—

I was able to say it.

This pain.
This sorrow.
This suffering.
This fear.

It's so much.

Ah.

Eye luhhb you.

This happiness.

And so I cried.

BAKEMONOGATARI

NNH!

JIGGLE

BLUP

Kanji: Love

My heart's going to be burned to ashes.

No, it's more than that.

It's hot.

...

Araragi.

And so...

Because it's these flames of love—that my jealousy feeds off of.

That's just how powerful The Tyrannical Tiger was.

Would you consider dating me with the intention of getting married?

I'm...super glad to hear that.

But I'm sorry.

At the moment, I happen...

...to have a girlfriend.

...Yeah.

I know.

Do you love her...

...more than you love me?

Yeah.

That's right. This is it.

This is— correct.

Ahh.

I've been rejected.

I know I'm a sore loser, but, Araragi...

if you'd picked me— I think I might have looked down on you.

I love you...

It can't be like that.

... mrow.

Confess. Get rejected.

He even gave an honest answer to that mean question.

Mmh ...

Oh...

...I see.

I was able to feel hurt.

Finally.

ROARRR

I went so far as to lie— saying I'd rather see the world than go to college after graduating.

when I'd never experienced this sorrow.

I'd been talking about traveling the world and discovering myself—

...how could I go on a trip to mend my broken heart?

Without heart-break...

What self-discovery? What self-creation?

the story of *The Blue Bird of Happiness*. It's a little embarrassing to realize that.

It's almost exactly like—

It had to be somewhere out there... or so I told myself.

A place to return.

By traveling the world, I would finally find a place to call home—a family.

...it was right here inside me...

Because all this time...

My family. The place I can call home.

I do hope you find your way home soon.

Er... But...

...that thing's in tatters now.

And it's even stained with my blood.

Well, I'm the one who tore it up.

STAMPS

Ara-ragi.

I'm going to be taking this shirt, okay?

And you still haven't returned the underwear I gave you over spring break, either...

AGH ...!

this shirt has a special meaning to me.

As someone whose immortality is imperfect at best—

According to Mister Oshino, Araragi's blood apparently boosts the vampiric elements within me.

This is a sort of an insurance policy.

SNIFF SNIFF

As well as I...

Ah, I want to lick it already...

It'll also be so that the feelings I have now—won't fade.

...And perhaps, so will Araragi.

Vampires live long lives.

I'll do that to maintain my body—but not just that.

But the option of waiting is also available to thee.

I'm going to make a world that Araragi can come home to.

Now and then... I think I'll lick this blood.

I know.

Araragi can come home to

OH.

This one month may even feel longer to thee.

That's what Shinobu said, but...

...she really is such an awful liar.

But it is like the blink of an eye once over.

...felt the first century to be rather long.

...Yes, even I...

Hm?

Ah.

...

Well.

FIDGET

Um.

FIDGET

I think that a century—

must feel like...

an incredibly long time.

It feels like I haven't been able to wear proper clothes for about two years now.

NOW SHE'S GETTING MAD ON A META-LEVEL FOR SOME REASON!

...Wait, why is my naked body making you react like this after all this time?

Aren't you sick and tired of all this fanservice, if anything ?

I THINK THERE'S A BIG MISUNDERSTANDING HERE, BUT ALSO!

WAIT, NO, HOLD ON!

Sorry to not be wearing anything down there.

...you're a pretty severe case, so I bet it's the skirt that turns you on, not what it contains, right?

Anyway, Araragi ...

NO ONE WILL EVER TIRE OF IT OR BE SATISFIED...

...NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF IT YOU SERVE UP!

THE MORE FANSERVICE THERE IS, THE BETTER!

A perfect segue, if I do say so myself!

Ah!

FLAP

So we can call this the website (?).

So, want to get a handful while we're at it?

Remember? You said, "To be continued on our website!" during spring break.

WOBBLE

WOBBLE

We're making insider jokes now, this far in?

...So goes the wise saying of a certain former editor-in-chief for *Weekly Shonen Magazine*, a favorite of mine...

SCURRY

You know, today's probably the last time I'll be playing along with a pervy conversation like this.

...your shoulders?

A handful of...

Umm...

I...I'm sorry!

...Ngh!

HYEEK

Grab emmm !!!

My boobs!!! Don't play with me!!

Well, actually, you are free to play with my body now.

I gotta live off these memories for the next century!

You could at least do this one last thing for me!!

C'mon, Araragi !

Uh, forget I said that!

A c-cen-tury?!

...What are those two doing?

I'd expect nothing less of my senior Araragi ...

In Mister Oshino's plan... you were supposed to defeat that giant tiger aberration, right?

REAL BOOB MIS-SILES! ATTACK!

I was attacked by a vampire

THE WICKED HANDS THAT STAND IN THE WAY OF MY BREASTS' AMBITIONS ?!

SO THESE ARE THE HANDS ?!

TIME TO STICK 'EM RIGHT IN!

RIGHT IN WHERE?!

My master merely asked to borrow my blade.

Perhaps that boy had seen through it all...he knew it would turn out this way.

That...

...spring break...

...to these two.

...I became indebted ...

Hey, Araragi ?

...crying.

Sorry. I'm not quite done...

I think that today, at last...

...I could be born.

Enveloped— by kindness.

Exactly as I am.

In front of the one I love.

あ WAAAH

あ WAAAH

あ WAAAH

あ WAAAH

あ WAAAH

あ WAAAH

ん

...the same could be said— about myself.

It, too, seems to have stopped.

The rain.

And perhaps ...

But I'll join you.

I don't feel like heading straight home, either.

As a minor, I can't drink alcohol.

...canst thou partake of the spirits?

Monkey ...

GSSHT ガシャ

GSSHT ガシャ

and he told me all sorts of things once I paid him.

stopped me in the middle of the street,

↑ this crow-looking guy

When I was looking for you,

Hm?

By the way, why art thou so well informed?

TACHI DERMA

KAMIIKE TRADING

GRILLED

TOFU SHOP

Global sales new and used
Blue Seas Trading

OKAY, NO-BODY'S AROUND NOW!

C'MON, SPRINT!

AND IT'S FINE IF YOU LOOK AT MY BUTT, ARARAGI!

I CAN'T LET YOU DO THIS TOMORROW, BUT TODAY, YOU CAN SEE AS MUCH OF WHATEVER PART OF ME YOU WANT AND I WON'T GET MAD!

YOU'RE NOT MAKIN' SENSE!!

THAT'S WHY I'M MAKING SURE NOBODY SEES US!

PEOPLE WERE GLANCING AT US AS THEY PASSED BY, TOO... YOUR BUTT! YOUR ASS! YOUR AAASSS!

WAIT, WAIT! HANEKAWA! I'M PRETTY SURE *THE TIME FOR MONSTERS* IS OVER NOW!

THIS IS YOU WE'RE DEALING WITH—IT'LL BE OKAY!

I'M SURE THE PEOPLE AT THE STORE WILL HELP!

IT'S FINE! YOU JUST HAVE TO SAY THAT YOU'RE IN A TIGHT SPOT.

Uh...

Huh? What does that mean?

Er... I don't have that kind of money ...

YOU CAN'T GO ON A DATE LOOKING LIKE THAT, CAN YOU?!

WE HAVE TO HURRY BEFORE THE STORES CLOSE!

THEY'RE OPEN UNTIL EIGHT!

EVEN NAOETSU HIGH STUDENTS... FREQUENT THAT PLACE...

ON THAT CORNER! THERE'S A STORE THAT'S... POPULAR WITH YOUNG PEOPLE!

O-Oh god...

I can't be doing this...

Was I always like this when I was that cat?

I-I wanna die...

JIGGLE たぷん

JIGGLE たぷん

JIGGLE たぷん

You...

...don't know.

Unbe-liev-able.

You really do know everything.

I don't know every-thing.

I only know what I know.

Nobody knows ...

...what our future ...

...holds in store.

June
13.

It was
going to
be—a
memorable
day
for me.

...

DONG

PUSH

DING

...would come—to an end.

The day my personal hell...

Ding Dong

Com-ing!

Mmh.

KOFF

Could you wait for just a second, Araragi?

Oh my.

Heh heh!

Hm... You're even wearing proper, pre-sentable clothes.

AGH!

Did Miss Hanekawa put that outfit together?

She figured it out...

Even the stitching on that shirt is to my taste.

They're on-trend, and they fit your body type well.

For being late...on our very first date.

Um... Sorry.

...

I thought you'd show up later at night, or maybe at dawn—

or that even the whole date would end up not happening.

...It's fine.

...

Yeah.

It's resolved— I think.

I assume—you came here after resolving Miss Hanekawa's issue— correct?

Araragi.

NO ENTRY

I see.

...?

So that must mean...

...she was *able to rely on you—* right?

You did a very good job.

Good boy.

PAT

PAT

It must have been a very difficult night.

If you crawl around on all fours and start barking, I wouldn't mind giving you an even bigger reward just for tonight.

NOT HAP-PEN-ING!

Good work.

...

Mmh.

The night— is long, you see.

I guess that now...

...there's no reason for me to show special consideration to her either.

Hm? What's that?

Oh, nothing. I'm just saying that this is when your night really gets started, Araragi.

Okay, let's go. Follow along now.

WOOF !

HEFF HEFF HEFF

What's this feeling?

It's like there's a lot more to what she's saying...

Huh?

...

Get in.

Panda 4x4

...Hello there.

I'm Hitagi's father.

Could you move over?

VRRM

SKRRK SKRRK SKRRK SKRRK

QUALITY CHARCOAL 4kg

FOR LEISURE & OUTDOOR USE

BBQ

What's the matter, Araragi?

You're awfully quiet.

Um... Hey.

Do you... get the predica-ment I'm in now?

THAT'S HOW LITTLE YOU UNDER-STAND?!

How do you spell "predica-ment"?

I sure don't.

When is "now"?

A memorable day, but how?

This is a date that's more like torture...

My girlfriend's father is chaperoning us on our first date.

Araragi.
I don't blame you for feeling nervous on your first date with a girl.

But you need to relax. The night is long.

Yeah ...

TWITCH TWITCH

Thinking that a late-night date implied something...

Having that silly look on my face because of her... How I hate my past self...

Why does the night have to be long?

Right now, I'm praying for this time to end as quickly as possible.

Hey.

Araragi ?

Where are we even going in this car?

—And wait.

Do you ...

...love me?

Wh—

What a way to harass someone!

Not only does she have an acid tongue, she's capable of this, too?!

What's wrong?

Hold on, Araragi.

Could it be that you don't love me?

Are you really unfazed by this?!

You...

Oh.
I love you, too, Araragi.

I...
I love you...

Well... Thank you very much.

How are you even going to face each other during breakfast tomorrow morning?

Having this conversation in front of your father?

No... Never mind.

She's the kind of woman who doesn't mind taking collateral damage if it means being able to harass me...

Come to think of it... This entire date...

...might just be a grand harassment scheme designed to trap and torment me...

What's the matter? You've hardly opened your mouth today.

Are you in a bad mood?

It's not about mood here...

Ah, so it's your IQ that's bad.

YOU JUST CAN'T RESIST TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MY CONFUSION, CAN YOU?!

Let's get back on track.

—What about me do you love?

I DEFINITELY KNOW WHAT I DON'T LOVE ABOUT YOU!!

Hey, Senjo-gahara.

Seriously. What do you think you're doing?

"Senjo-gahara"? Which of us do you mean?

Araragi has something to say to you, Dad.

MISS HITAGI! I WANT TO SPEAK TO MISS HITAGI!

Anyway, you know the famous mystery writer Agatha Christie, don't you ?

I'm not planning anything.

What exactly do you think you're doing? What are you planning?

Dam-mit!

And I was actually looking forward to this...

It almost felt like a dream come true...

Dad, it seems like your daughter is a theatric hag.

It was a trap. And I fell right into it.

I can't believe you'd say that about me in front of my parent.

URK!

IF ANYONE'S A THEATRIC HAG, IT'S YOU!

WHO CARES ABOUT THAT ?!

If you rearrange her name...

...you get "a hag is theatric."

Do you think that was on purpose?

...don't know.

Araragi. You...

If I say what I'm really thinking right now, it's going to end with us breaking up...

Calm down... I need to calm down...

MUTTER MUTTER

...as I watched that battle.

You have no idea what I felt...

But there were some things I knew.

Maybe some sort of—ghostly something of hers still remained here.

Maybe that had something to do with Miss Hanekawa sleeping at my home for a while.

I was able to see something I shouldn't have seen.

There was nothing I could do.

I knew I couldn't take my eyes off *this* battle.

And so...

...when you rang the doorbell with that bouquet in your hands.

I wasn't able to come out for a little while.

I knew that you were probably—

going to choose Miss Hanekawa.

So then ...

What about me do you love?

Heh heh heh!

Heh!

SMIRK

Perfect!

Time to go on the attack! I have to do something before she can just bowl me over here!

I was scared.

I waited for so long.

It felt like I waited for a century.

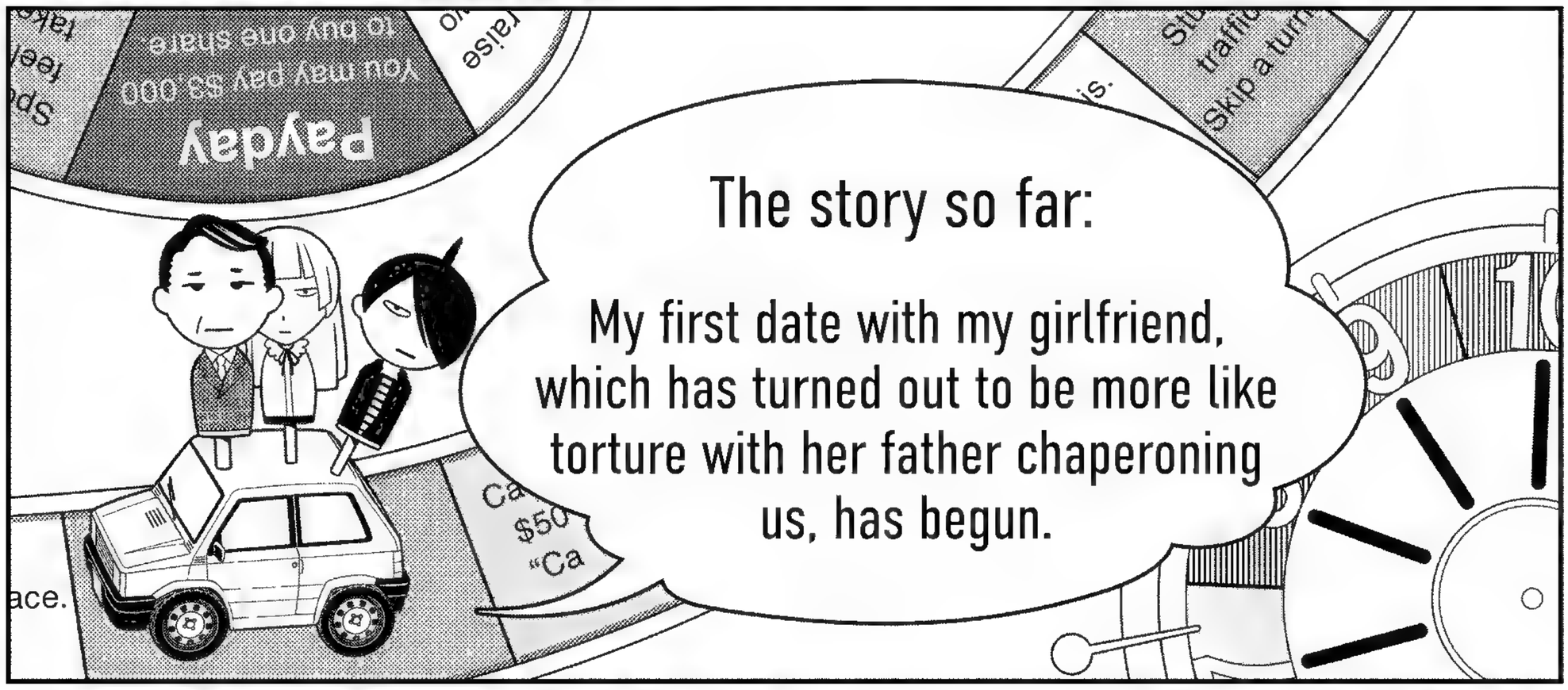
OKAY, MY BAD!

STOP! PLEASE, STOP!

How you're like a prince who comes dashing in to save me whenever I'm in trouble.

How kind you are.

How cute you are.


Payday
You may pay $$,000 to buy one share.
raise
Skip a turn.
$50
"Ca
The story so far:
My first date with my girlfriend, which has turned out to be more like torture with her father chaperoning us, has begun.

...to be walking down this thorny path?
I don't understand ...
Why... Where did I go wrong ...

Elegantly walking down a path filled with roses in bloom is such a gorgeous and beautiful image.
What's wrong with a thorny path?

In the language of flowers, roses mean...

...“A foolish man.”

STOP MAKING STUFF UP ALL THE TIME!

What are you talking about? I wish you wouldn't make such groundless accusations.

DID YOU NEARLY CALL YOUR OWN BOYFRIEND "GARBAGE"?!

Anyway, garba...

Sorry— Araragi.

WHAT IF SOMEONE COMES AWAY THINKING THAT'S ACTUALLY TRUE?!

The skills test you had the other day— you still haven't thanked me for my help, you know.

You remember how I minded you at my home, the two of us alone, all day and all night?

RUB
さわ

?!

...

...?!

Why would you word it that way in earshot of your own father?!

This is bad... I can't come up with a single witty retort!

RUB
さわ

RUB
さわ

FSST

I must say, I've done a fine job improving a dummy like you, Araragi—

seeing as you used to be the type of fool who would spell "mandrill" as "man drill."

TWITCH ヒヨ

Th... Thank you, Sen— Miss Hitagi.

I really... should have said something sooner.

Yeah... You're right.

MH!

Well...

ER...

I-I can't be-lieve her ...!

TWITCH ヒロ

Is she really going for...a hands-on attack?!!

RUB なわ

RUB なわ

RUB なわ

If it's what you want— Of course ...

...I don't mind continuing to help you learn *all kinds* of subjects.

That's right, all kinds.

A-ALL KINDS ?!

OOH!

UNH!

I COULDN'T HOPE FOR ANYTHING MORE!

Is that so.

In that case, you'll be studying at my place every day.

IF YOU COULD HELP ME WITH THEM...

MY STUD-IES! YES!

RUB

Hey, Araragi ?

This isn't *like* torture at this point... It *is* torture—plain and simple!

What do I have to admit to make her stop?!

TWITCH

URRGH

TWITCH

Gah.

GUHH...

But no... I can't make any loud noises here or else—

How could she say such embarrassing, indecent things with her father right there?

What did she just say to me?!

WH...

O...O...O...O

WHA?!

YUH...

RUB

RUB

RUB

RUB

HYEEK ...

STAH ...

○.....○.....×○.....○

I'm doing this to teach you how the real world works.

You made me think that maybe you're dreaming a little too big.

It seems that you need to "study" more, Araragi.

OPENING YOUR CHAKRAS

I...never knew that kind of a combination was possible!

Shangxing
Third Eye Chakra
Throat Chakra
Heart Chakra
Jianyu
Huagai
Zhouron
Bin
lao
iiang
tu
fu
g
g

She wants to %*&!@— my !&*!#?!

HAAH!

HAAH!

Wh...

What ?!

WHAT'S WITH YOU?

はむ。
HALIMPH

...!!

...!!!

©0... CKADOODLE

This was, in no way...

...the date I'd wanted to go on.

My hopes, my dreams, my fantasies —

she really was going through them all and smashing them, one after the other...

We're almost there.

WHERE... ARE WE?

MISS... HITAGI?

MUH...

Could you shut up for a bit, Araragi?

Or else I'll bend every joint in your body backward until you paradoxically look kind of cool.

...Why was it?

For some reason, Hitagi Senjogahara—

looked a little nervous.

SKRSH

SKRSH

SKRSH

SKRSH

Okay.

I'm going to go get ready.

Ready?

...Wait.

Wha...

ALONE

ぼっち

I'm— Koyomi.

Oh.

Yes!

Is that your name?

Ara- ragi—

...but I think Hitagi is too heavy a burden for most.

Maybe I shouldn't be saying this about my own daughter ...

And so...

...it's been a long time since I last saw my daughter having this much fun.

I'm ashamed to admit this... but I wasn't able to fully support Hitagi.

...

Yeah.

...When you've closed off your heart like Hitagi...

...She's always like that.

I'm even wondering if she made you accompany us just to mess with me.

...there are only two categories of people— to whom you speak your mind.

Those you don't mind being hated by...

...and ...

...those you're not worried about hating you.

...

Huh.

It's noth-ing.

...I just... happened to be in the right place at the right time.

Oh, no.

I hear you helped play a role...

...in curing Hitagi's illness, too.

Well... that's enough.

...I ended up being present for it. That's all.

Hitagi went and got saved on her own.

That's enough on its own. There's nothing more you had to do to earn her gratitude.

The simple fact you were there when she needed you to be.

...?

Of...

... spiting you?

She did see me in a lot of ugly arguments with her mother.

So, if anything, today is probably her way of spiting me.

I wasn't able to play that role for her as a father.

"I'll never grow up to be like you two."

It was like I could hear her saying the words.

Hitagi sees me—

as someone she doesn't mind being hated by.

…

To be honest…

I…

…don't think that's true.

…this probably isn't—something I should be getting involved in.

That's what she's saying.

"I'm okay now."

"You don't need to worry about me anymore."

I guess...

...that's what it sounded like to me.

I too—

have finally started to understand.

Not because she wanted to show me off to him before anyone else.

It's because *she wanted him to see.*

I think those are two completely different things.

Well...

The reason ...

...she brought her own father...

...to her very first date.

So she wanted you to be the very first to see it—

the sight of her being happy and healthy again.

I think ...

...the one person who's watched over and cared for Miss Hitagi more than any other—is you, her dad.

I'm sorry. I kinda ...

...No.

I see why Hitagi was cured of her "illness" after meeting you.

I think I see it quite well now.

They should be... around here...

I quit, but— mind if I smoke for a moment?

Sorry.

I'll do it over there.

That's right.

...is an awkward girl.

Hitagi Senjo-gahara ...

...

Let's break up after all.

What are you smirking about? How creepy.

...you were *being you*— without ever letting your guard down or showing an opening.

It looks like...

出発

We'll be back in about two hours, Dad.

You're free to leave Araragi here, you know...

Umm ...?

Just shut up and follow me.

...Kanbaru might find herself in a rather unfortunate situation sometime tomorrow or so.

Or else, somehow or another...

I'm currently being punished because I'm a very naughty girl.

...I'll do what you say...

Excuse me? Is Kanbaru pervy?

Huh?

Hm?

Your influence on Kanbaru must be why she's so pervy.

Seeing you in the car made me certain.

—Oh, right. Kanbaru did tell me.

You used to go off to some other prefecture at night about twice a year before?

Could... this be the reason why?

...Hm.

Is that what she said?

I think ...

...she's right.

I'm glad it's a clear night.

We have special seats.

Let s all find our dreams in the stars!

秋星天文台
Akihoshi Observatory

秋星天文台
Akihoshi Observatory

You can open your eyes now.

...!

Wh—

Who-
ooo-
ooah!

There —

It... It's amaz-ing!

I'm... seriously speech-less.

That's Deneb.

Altair.

Vega.

The famous summer triangle.

So this—is what she wanted to show me...

Of course...

Senjoga-hara—waited.

For this day—for our first date.

Which means Virgo is right there.

Cancer is over there... Oh, maybe it's a bit hard to make out.

This star-filled sky...

...must not be something you can just see whenever you want.

From there, if you go aaaall the way to the side...

...we get to Ophiuchus over in that area.

That conspicuously bright star is Spica.

Like I really was right there in the middle of a fairy tale.

...I opened my eyes to find myself in the stars.

It was almost as if...

she told the name and story of every constellation we could see.

One by one—

That's ...

...every-thing.

Hm?

All of it.

Everything I have.

And—

These stars.

The ability to help you study.

My cute little junior and my curt father.

That's about ...

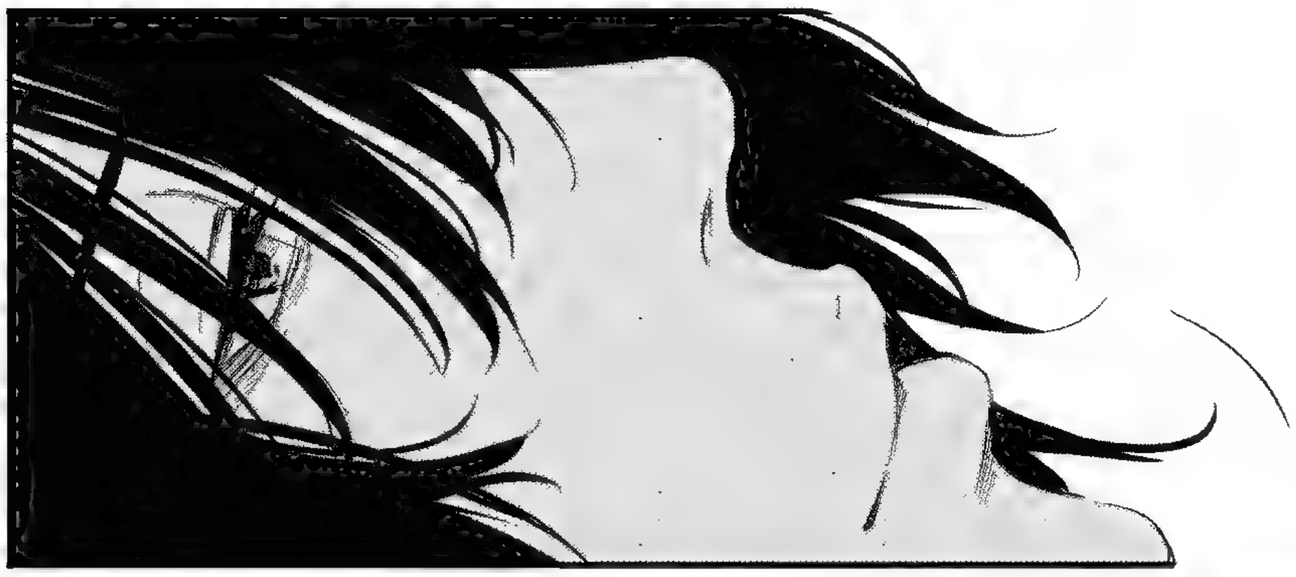
...all I can give to you.

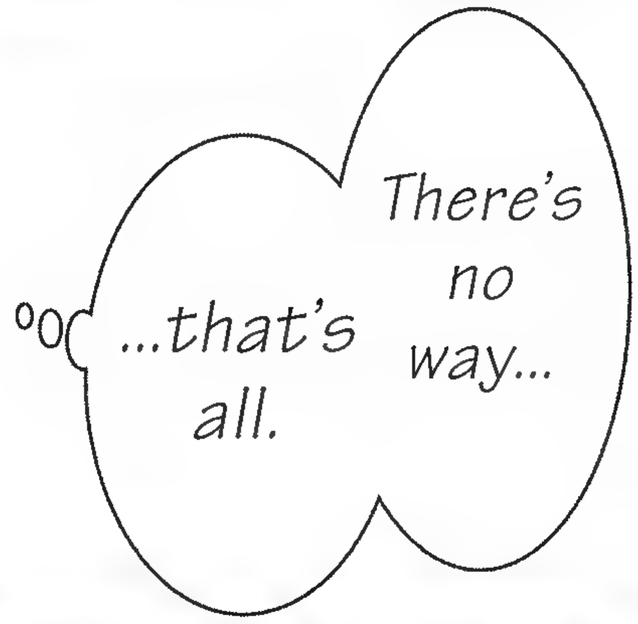
That's about ...

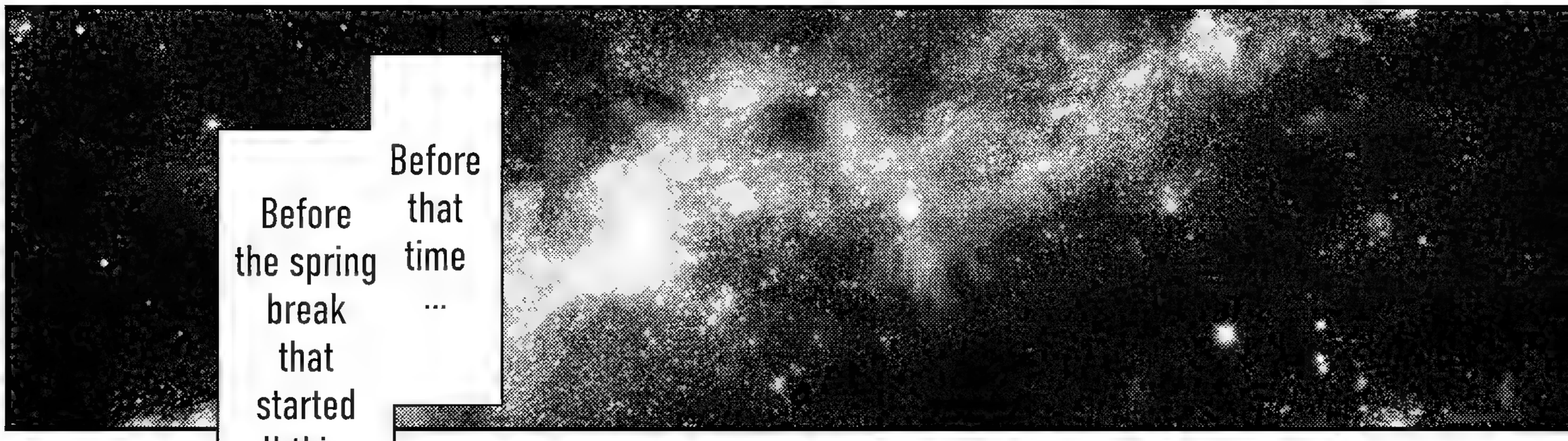
...all I have.

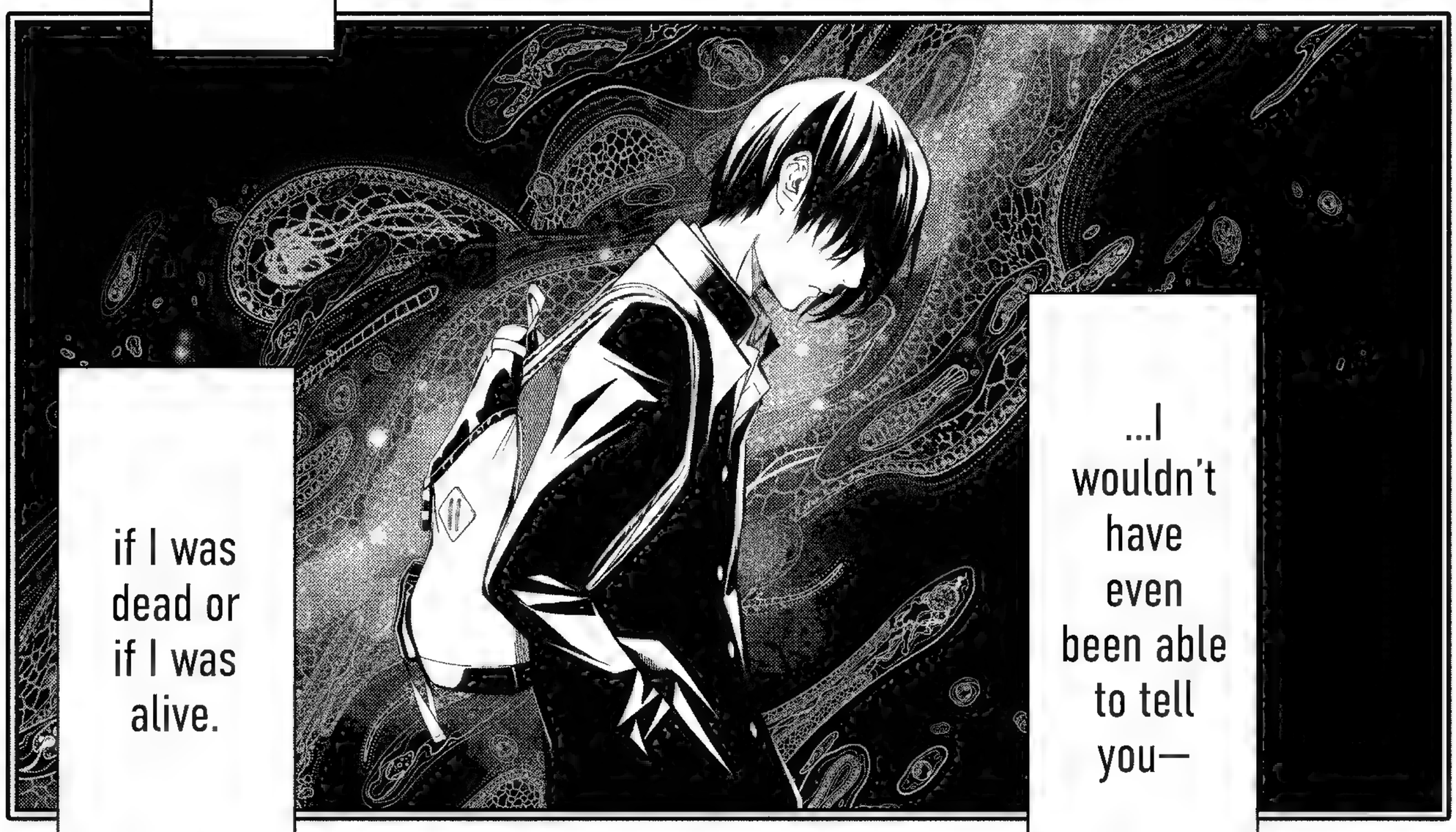
That's it.

Every-thing.




There's no way...
...that's all.


Before that time ...
Before the spring break that started all this...


if I was dead or if I was alive.
...I wouldn't have even been able to tell you—

I met Hanekawa.

I met Oshino.

I met Kiss-Shot—or "Shinobu."

And I decided that even if it meant living with a curse—

I was at least going to live. But...

I had to live— but...

...I had no other choice.

And in your case, maybe being a vampire doesn't really mean much either, Araragi.

That's what you told me.

It's okay if I keep on living the way I am.

You know, Koyomi.

Just because one is *incapable of dying*—

does not necessarily mean that they are living.

...a reason—

to live.

You gave me...

And...

I DON'T NEED THAT!

Well, technically speaking, I do also have my acid tongue and verbal abuse to give you.

I also have that, I guess.

...this body of mine.

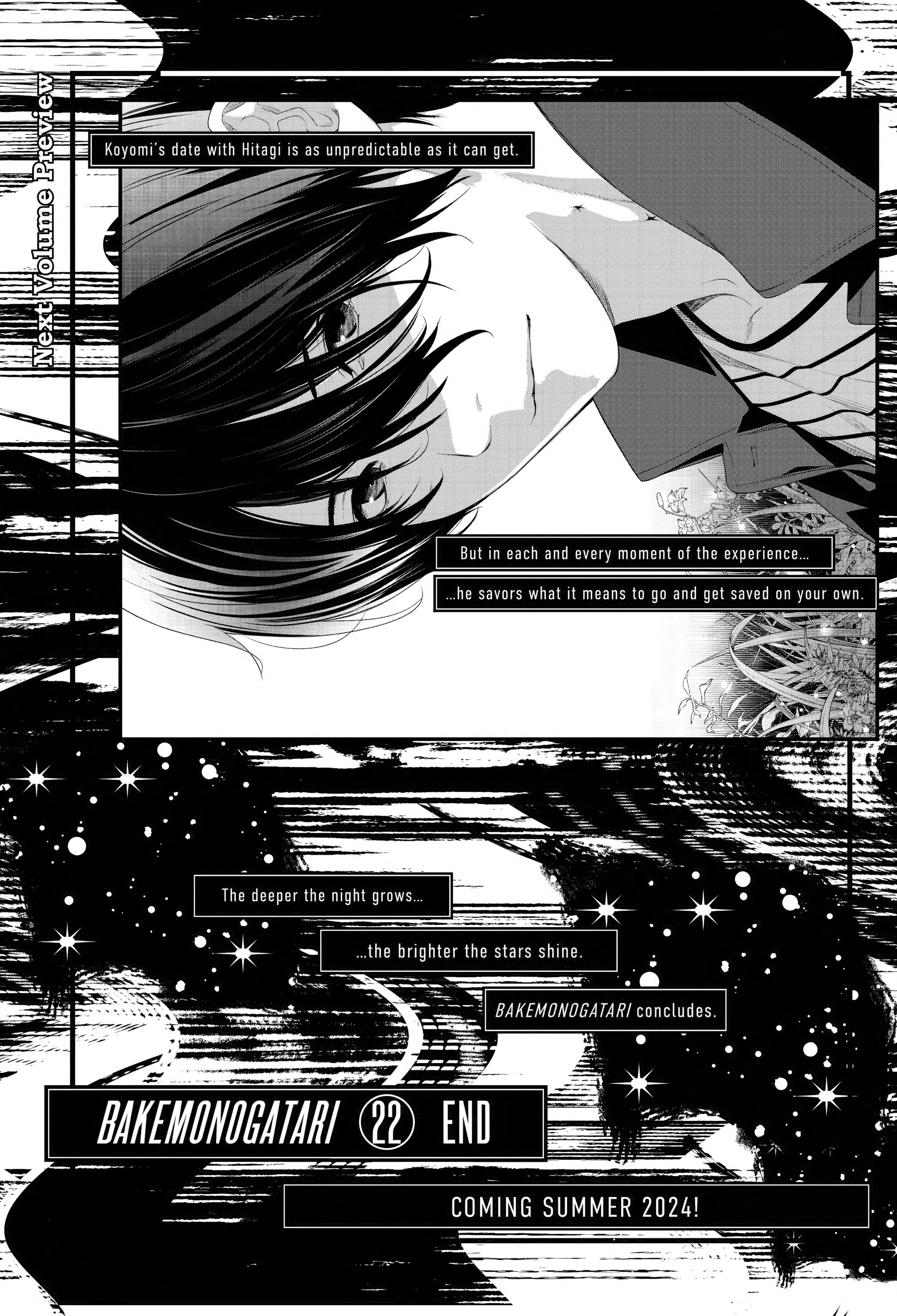
Do you...

...not need that, either?

SQUEEZE

Continued in Volume 22

Next Volume Preview


Koyomi's date with Hitagi is as unpredictable as it can get.
But in each and every moment of the experience...
...he savors what it means to go and get saved on your own.
The deeper the night grows...
...the brighter the stars shine.
BAKEMONOGATARI concludes.
BAKEMONOGATARI ㉒ END
COMING SUMMER 2024!

BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 21

Kodansha Digital Edition

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